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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Marcus Lemonis on his
4 successful career as a businessman, philanthropist, and
5 visionary; and

6 WHEREAS, Marcus Lemonis, who now calls Illinois home, was
7 born in Beirut, Lebanon during a civil war and foreign invasion
8 in 1973; he was adopted by Leo and Sophia Lemonis, a couple
9 living in Miami, Florida, on July 29, 1974; and

10 WHEREAS, Marcus Lemonis was introduced to the automobile
11 industry at a young age by his grandfather, who owned two of
12 the largest Chevrolet dealerships in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, After working for his grandfather for several
14 years, Marcus Lemonis received an offer from family friend and
15 financial investor Lee Lacocca to start a large recreational
16 vehicle chain; the offer led to a long and successful career in
17 the RV dealership business; and

18 WHEREAS, Marcus Lemonis served as CEO of Holiday RV
19 Superstores Inc. from June 2001 to February 2003; following
20 that, he co-founded FreedomRoads and began acquiring RV
21 dealerships; in 2006, the company merged with Camping World,

1 and he served as CEO; in 2011, he oversaw the company's merger
2 with Good Sam Enterprises; and

3 WHEREAS, Under the direction of Marcus Lemonis, Camping
4 World and Good Sam launched Project Good Samaritan as part of
5 their 2013 goal to foster corporate responsibility; the project
6 requires a team of nearly 7,000 employees to volunteer 32 hours
7 per year to causes that are meaningful to them; and

8 WHEREAS, In October 2016, Camping World went public, and
9 the stock was valued at \$22 per share, giving it a market value
10 of approximately \$2 billion; and

11 WHEREAS, Marcus Lemonis' philanthropic efforts include
12 support for the Joffrey Ballet, St. Jude Children's Research
13 Hospital, the Ravinia Festival, Lincoln Park Zoo, the RV/MH
14 Hall of Fame, the Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, National
15 Voices for Equality, Education, and Enlightenment, New
16 Journey's Transitional Home, and Neat Stuff; and

17 WHEREAS, Marcus Lemonis is the host of the CNBC reality
18 show The Profit, which seeks out promising but faltering small
19 businesses; in the show, he invests his own money for part
20 ownership and helps make the businesses profitable; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2007, Marcus Lemonis was named "Newsmaker of

1 the Year" by RV Business Magazine; he is an example of a modern
2 citizen whose humble beginnings show an American Dream
3 realized; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we congratulate Marcus Lemonis on his successful career and
7 commend his philanthropic work; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Marcus Lemonis as an expression of our esteem and
10 respect.